

WHAT IS (PCT) CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for operating a communications network (20) wherein a
2 multicast/broadcast multimedia service is available over an air interface (38) to a
3 remote unit (40), a media flow (34) of the multicast/broadcast multimedia service being
4 subject to unidirectional header compression logic at a compressor (25), the method
5 characterized by:

6 receiving a request (62) indicating that the remote unit (40) seeks access to the
7 multicast/broadcast multimedia service; and, in response thereto,

8 generating, external to the header compression logic, a trigger signal (64) which
9 is applied to the compressor (25) to trigger a lowest compression state of the header
10 compression logic.

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1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the trigger signal (64)
2 prior to generation an initial packet of the media flow (34).

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1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein, absent receipt of the external signal, the
2 header compression logic is configured to start the lowest compression state upon
3 receiving an initial packet of the media flow (34) and is configured to refresh at the
4 lowest compression state upon expiration of a timeout.

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1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising also generating the trigger signal
2 (64) to trigger a transition to the lowest compression state of the header compression
3 logic upon receipt of an indication of a decompression problem which has occurred at
4 the remote unit (40).

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1 5. A method for operating a communications network (20) wherein a
2 multicast/broadcast multimedia service is available over an air interface (38) to a
3 remote unit (40), a media flow (34) of the multicast/broadcast multimedia service being
4 subject to unidirectional header compression logic at a compressor (25), the method
5 characterized by:

6 receiving an indication (92) of a decompression problem which has occurred at
7 the remote unit (40); and, in response thereto,

generating, external to the header compression logic, a trigger signal (64) which is applied to the compressor (25) to trigger a lowest compression state of the header compression logic.

6. The method of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the header compression logic is configured to perform robust header compression (ROHC) in a unidirectional mode and the lowest compression state is the Initialization and Refresh (IR) state.

7. The method of claim 4 or claim 5, wherein the decompression problem is compression initialization failure or compression static context damage.

8. The method of claim 4 or claim 5, wherein the indication of a decompression problem is an attempt by the remote unit (40) to reinitiate access to the multicast/broadcast multimedia service.

9. The method of claim 1 or claim 5, wherein the trigger signal (64) is derived using one or more broadcast/multicast channel acquisition events initiated by the remote unit (40).

10. A communications network (20) comprising:
a multicast/broadcast multimedia server (21) which makes a multicast/broadcast multimedia service available to a remote unit (40) over an air interface (38);
a header compressor (25) which subjects a media flow (34) of the multicast/broadcast multimedia service to unidirectional header compression logic for compressing a headers of the media flow (34);

characterized by:

a network node (60) which is arranged, upon receiving a request (62) indicating that the remote unit (40) seeks access to the multicast/broadcast multimedia service, to generate, external to the header compression logic, a trigger signal (64) which is applied to the compressor (25) to trigger a lowest compression state of the header compression logic.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the network node (60) generates the trigger signal (64) prior to generation of an initial packet of the media flow (34).

1 12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein, absent receipt of the external signal, the
2 header compression logic is configured to start the lowest compression state upon
3 receiving an initial packet of the media flow (34) and is configured to refresh at the
4 lowest compression state upon expiration of a timeout.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the network node (60) also generates the
2 trigger signal (64) to trigger a transition to the lowest compression state of the header
3 compression logic upon receipt of an indication (92) of a decompression problem which
4 has occurred at the remote unit (40).

1 14. A communications network (20) comprising:
2 a multicast/broadcast multimedia server (21) which makes a multicast/broadcast
3 multimedia service available to a remote unit (40) over an air interface (38);
4 a header compressor (25) which subjects a media flow (34) of the
5 multicast/broadcast multimedia service to unidirectional header compression logic for
6 compressing a headers of the media flow (34);
7 characterized by:
8 a network node (60) which is arranged, upon receiving an indication (92) of a
9 decompression problem which has occurred at the remote unit (40), to generate,
10 external to the header compression logic, a trigger signal (64) which is applied to the
11 compressor (25) to trigger a lowest compression state of the header compression logic.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 10 or claim 14, wherein the header compression
2 logic is configured to perform robust header compression (ROHC) in a unidirectional
3 mode and the lowest compression state is the Initialization and Refresh (IR) state.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 13 or claim 14, wherein the decompression problem
2 is compression initialization failure or compression static context damage.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the indication of a decompression
2 problem is an attempt by the remote unit (40) to reinitiate access to the
3 multicast/broadcast multimedia service.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 10 or claim 14, wherein the trigger signal (64) is
2 derived using one or more broadcast/multicast channel acquisition events initiated by
3 the remote unit (40).

1 19. The apparatus of claim 10 or claim 14, wherein the network node (60)
2 which generates the trigger signal (64) is a node at which the multicast/broadcast
3 multimedia server (21) resides.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 10 or claim 14, wherein the network node (60)
2 which generates the trigger signal (64) is one of a packet data serving node node
3 (PDSN).

1 21. A remote unit (40) which receives a multicast/broadcast multimedia service
2 from a communications network (20) over an air interface (38) communications
3 network (20), a media flow (34) of the multicast/broadcast multimedia service being
4 subject to unidirectional header compression logic for compressing a headers of the
5 media flow (34), the remote unit (40) comprising a transceiver for receiving the media
6 flow (34) and being characterized by:

7 a decompressor (25) which is arranged, upon encountering a decompression
8 problem with the media flow (34), to send a request to reinitiate access to the
9 multicast/broadcast multimedia service to the communications network (20) with an
10 expectation that the request to reinitiate access will trigger a lowest compression state
11 of the header compression logic.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the decompression problem is
2 compression initialization failure or compression static context damage.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the header compression logic is
2 configured to perform robust header compression (ROHC) in a unidirectional mode and
3 the lowest compression state is the Initialization and Refresh (IR) state.
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